



United States Army Corps of Engineers  
Wilmington District  
P.O. Box 1890  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-1890

# News Release

Contact: PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE  
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June 5, 2000  
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For Release: IMMEDIATELY

Media—please be aware that a major city newspaper has published INCOMPLETE information about these meetings that leads readers to think that the meetings are this week (5-9 June) rather than when they are scheduled: next week (12-15 June). TO HELP THE PUBLIC AVOID THE NUISANCE OF SHOWING UP AT THE WRONG TIME, WE REQUEST THAT YOU RE-RELEASE THIS INFORMATION CAREFULLY EMPHASIZING THE MEETING DATES. THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP IN THIS MATTER.

## Corps schedules public meetings to gather comment on operations at Falls Dam

During the week of June 12 through 16, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Wilmington District, will hold four public meetings to gather comment on flood control operations of the Falls Dam and Reservoir. According to Allen Piner, Assistant Water Control Manager for the facility, "We conduct periodic reviews of our project operation to ensure that we do the best possible job of managing flood waters, and to determine whether improvements can be made."

"No operations plan can be considered a once and for all right way to operate a dam," Piner explained. "We have gained a great deal of knowledge about the Falls Dam and the Neuse River over the past decade. Hurricanes and flood events have shown us how flood water releases behave under extreme conditions. New technologies have made it possible for us to gather real-time data about flows at several locations downstream. Our ability to analyze data has grown more powerful. Also, conditions in the river basin have been changing due to everything from growing beaver populations to human residential development." Thus there's reason to believe that the lower Neuse River Basin could benefit from a fresh look at flood control operations of the Falls Dam, located Northeast of the rapidly-growing Raleigh area.

The Corps seeks public comment because dam operations affect people as far down the Neuse River as Kinston, North Carolina. "We need to have the benefit of the public's observations

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and experience,” Piner said. People who attend the meetings will have an opportunity to speak one-on-one with a Corps representative, and to file their written comments. The meetings will be held according to the following schedule:

**Monday: June 12, 2000**

**6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

JC Recreation Center Club Room  
2405 Wade Avenue  
Raleigh, NC

**Tuesday: June 13, 2000**

**6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

City Council Chambers  
207 E. King Street  
Kinston, NC

**Wednesday: June 14, 2000**

**6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

City Council Chambers  
214 Center Street  
Goldsboro, NC

**Thursday: June 15, 2000**

**6:30 to 8:00 p.m.**

City Council Chambers  
350 E. Market Street  
Smithfield, NC

People who are unable to attend the meeting, but wish to register suggestions, comments or concerns, may do so by writing to:

US Army Engineer District, Wilmington  
ATTN: Carmine Forcinito  
Post Office Box 1890  
Wilmington, NC 28402

Or email the Wilmington District Public Affairs Office at: [Penny.Schmitt@usace.army.mil](mailto:Penny.Schmitt@usace.army.mil)

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